

# OPPOSITION TO SOVIET SCHEMES

"A Ray of Hope in the Darkness," which  
 Braised the exiled leader and  
 welcomed his promised return.<sup>5</sup>

Upon Seyyid Zia's arrival a new political  
 party called *Vatan* ("Fatherland") was created. Its press organ  
 was first *Karz* and later *Ra'd-i-Emruz*. In the fall of 1943 Seyyid Zia  
 ran for parliament and  
 was elected deputy by a substantial majority  
 from the Yazd con-  
 stituency. His campaign was made on a  
 personal basis, and no other  
 deputies in the Majlis were known as officially  
 representing Varan.  
 After more than a year Vatan changed its  
 name to *Eradeh-yi-Melli*  
 ("National Will"), which was officially  
 inaugurated as a new party  
 in January, 1945. Seyyid Zia  
 established his headquarters in  
 the sumptuous building of the former  
 Iran on Sa'di Avenue in  
 Teheran. Soon its offices and lobbies were  
 full of: functionaries and  
 visitors. Large rooms equipped with  
 "functional" conference furni-  
 ture constituted an ideal setting for party  
 meetings.

Eradeh-yi-Melli established a specific  
 organization different from  
 that of other small Iranian parties, and  
 similar perhaps only to the  
 Tudeh. Its basic unit was a "circle" *ihalqeh*,  
 composed of nine men  
 and a chief. Nine such circles constituted a  
 "group" *rabat*, under a  
 higher chief. Chiefs of groups were appointed  
 by the Secretary Gen-  
 eral of the party. They were to meet in  
 monthly conferences called  
 "the little parliament" in every city where  
 the party existed. In  
 March, 1945, the first national congress of  
 the party, called "the  
 great parliament/" was held in Teheran.  
 Eighty one delegates, pri-  
 marily from Teheran, were present. The  
 congress elected party  
 officers. The rather honorary position of  
 President was bestowed upon

Reza Quli Hedayat (Nur ol-Molk), a former cabinet minister. Seyyid Zia retained for himself the key post of Secretary General.<sup>7</sup> The program of Eradeh-yi-Melli reflected all the characteristics of liberal progressivism. It included equality and freedom for all Iranian citizens; a higher standard of living; reform of education; reform of administration and justice; improved health standards; advanced agrarian reform including the division of state domains among the

« April 7, 1943.

" Other members of the Central Committee were Hosein Kashef and All Ashgar Fruzan, vice-presidents; Sadig Sarmand, editor of the *Sedc.-i-Iran*; Baha ed-Din Pazargad, editor of the *Khorshid-i-Iran*; Samsid Issa Beiglu; and Hasan Mo'asser.